

However, this independence was short-lived as the Republic of Armenia soon collapsed because of renewed Turkish and Soviet pressure. On November 29, 1920, Armenia was declared a Soviet republic and spent the next 71 years under Soviet rule. With the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia was finally able to fulfill its goal of self-determination.

Today, September 23, Armenia celebrates the sixth anniversary of its independence. I know that the many Armenian-Americans in Michigan and the United States join in this celebration. The support Armenian-Americans have given to their homeland has been indispensable as Armenia emerges from many years of Soviet domination. I applaud their efforts and the efforts of the Armenian people to build an independent and democratic Armenia.●

FURTHER EVIDENCE OF NEED FOR LEGAL REFORM NOW

● Mr. GORTON. A jury in New Orleans the other week issued a clarion call for legal reform. A monstrous judgment against CSX Transportation and four other companies illustrates once again the arbitrary and perverse nature of our current tort system.

Mr. President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention a \$2.5 billion punitive damage award against CSX Transportation stemming from a 1987 chemical-car fire in the New Orleans neighborhood of Gentilly. Even in the context of our current broken legal system, this one is shocking. The jury awarded \$2.5 billion, out of a total punitive damage award of \$3.4 billion, against CSXT, Mr. President, despite the fact that Federal experts had determined that CSX was not at fault; despite the fact that the jury did not allocate any significant portion of the compensatory damages to CSXT; despite the fact that actual compensatory damages awarded to date in the case are only \$2 million; and despite the fact that the accident resulted in no deaths, no serious injuries, and no significant property damage.

Comparisons made in a New Orleans Times Picayune article put the total punitive damage award into perspective, warped as it is. Consider that the punitive damage award in this case is seven times the amount Union Carbide paid to settle a claim relating to a chemical leak in Bhopal, India, that killed 4,000 people and injured 300,000. Despite only minor property damage, this award is two-thirds of the punitive damage award against Exxon for the environmentally devastating spill that occurred in Alaska in 1989.

Let me set out the facts of the case as I understand them from the press accounts. On September 9, 1987, a railroad tank car containing butadiene, a volatile compound used in making synthetic rubber, was located in a rail yard in New Orleans on tracks that belonged to CSXT. Due to a faulty gasket, the contents of the car leaked and

the car caught fire. Local officials determined that the best approach was to let the fire burn itself out. To avoid harm to nearby residents, authorities ordered the evacuation of those living near the yard. Many people were inconvenienced, but although there are 8,000 people in the plaintiff class, only 2,300 people claim to have been located within the evacuation zone, and contemporary estimates of how many people were actually evacuated put the number at about 1,000.

One year after the accident, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Federal agency that investigates transportation accidents, determined that a misaligned gasket and other factors, not involving CSXT, had caused the accident. In fact, other than providing the track on which the train car was placed, CSXT had no connection to the car. CSXT did not own or repair the tank car, and it did not transport the car.

Significantly, even though the NTSB determined that CSTX had not caused the accident, the jury held CSXT 15 percent responsible for the \$2 million on compensatory damages that have been awarded to 20 plaintiffs at this time. The remaining plaintiffs will have to prove their damages in separate proceedings. Though it seems unfair that CSXT would be responsible for any compensatory damages if it was not at fault, it is unspeakably outrageous that CSXT would be assessed over 75 percent of the punitive damages, and only 15 percent of the compensatory damages.

How can it be that a Federal agency determines that a company has no responsibility for causing an accident and yet this huge verdict is awarded? The answer, unfortunately, is that our tort system is broken. The case in New Orleans is the latest, though perhaps most egregious, example of why we have to reform our civil justice system, to place some reasonable limit on punitive damage awards, to modify the laws regarding joint and several liability, and to provide disincentives for lawyers to go after the "deep pockets," simply because they're there.

CSXT is a big corporation, but that should not be reason to impose huge penalties on it, penalties that could affect its thousands of employees, thousands of middle-class stockholders who own shares in the company through their pension plans, and everyone who uses its vital transportation facilities. Until we undertake meaningful legal reform, we will continue to disadvantage businesses and consumers, stunt career opportunities, breed contempt for the law, and do injustice.●

THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRUMBULL, CT

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, located in the hilly country of southwestern Connecticut in the watershed of the Pequonnock River is the quaint residential community of Trumbull. De-

spite its proximity to many highly industrialized cities, Trumbull has been able to preserve its small-town New England character and charm, and this year the town of Trumbull will celebrate its 200th anniversary.

The Trumbull area was permanently settled in 1690, and in the following years families began migrating to this secluded wilderness region, building mills, churches, and schools. In 1725, the settlement officially became the village of Unity, and this village was eventually absorbed by the larger community of North Stratford. Nearly a century after it was settled, the residents began the petition process for independence from North Stratford, and in 1797, the general assembly granted this request, established town bounds, and declared that this area shall forever be a distinct town known by the name of "Trumbull."

The town was named after one of the most respected families in Connecticut history, the Trumbulls of Lebanon, CT. The family's patriarch, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., was the first of four "Governor Trumbulls" in Connecticut. He was a close ally of George Washington, and he was the only colonial Governor to support the Revolution. In recognition of his contributions to his State and his country, a statue of Jonathan Trumbull, Sr., currently stands in the Statuary Hall of the U.S. Capitol.

His son, Jonathan Trumbull, Jr., also had an illustrious career as an early American statesman. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives where he served as Speaker of the House. He also represented the State as a U.S. Senator and was elected Connecticut's governor in 1797, shortly after the town of Trumbull was incorporated.

In addition, Jonathan Trumbull, Sr.'s youngest child, John, was one of the most noteworthy American artists known for painting important historical events. Today, four of his paintings hang in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, his most famous being "The Surrender of Cornwallis."

While the namesakes for this town were truly heroic individuals, the many generations of Trumbull residents who have settled this town and shepherded its evolution over the years are equally heroic in their own right. They met the crises of their times. They worked hard to ensure a promising future for their children. They lent a helping hand to their neighbors when they were in need. They did all of the things that are necessary to sustain a community and help it develop into a wonderful place to live.

Today, Trumbull is a vibrant residential community which is dedicated to the preservation of its family-oriented atmosphere. Its schools are among the best in the State and the Parent-Teachers Association is very active. There are places of worship for more than a dozen different religions, strengthening the fabric of the community and adding to its diversity. More